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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL  
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 INFORMATION FROM  
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Scientific - Medicine, production of  
vaccines and sera

HOW  
PUBLISHED Monthly periodical

WHERE  
PUBLISHED Moscow

DATE  
PUBLISHED Nov 1953

LANGUAGE Russian

REPORT  
CD NO

DATE OF  
INFORMATION 1953

DATE DIST. 12 Apr 1954

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Zhurnal Mikrobiologii, Epidemiologii, i Immunologii, No 11, pp 93, 94

MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTES  
 OF VACCINES AND SERA OF MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH USSR

A meeting of the directors of the Scientific Research Institutes of  
 Vaccines and Sera took place in Moscow on 27-30 July 1953.

The meeting was called by the Division of Production of Vaccines and  
 Sera (GSPEU) of the Main Sanitary-Antiepidemic Administration of the Ministry  
 of Public Health USSR. Present were the directors and scientific heads of  
 the Institutes of Vaccines and Sera and the heads of the Moscow Institute of  
 Epidemiology and Microbiology imeni Gamaleya of the Academy of Medical Sciences  
 USSR, the Moscow Institute of Epidemiology, Microbiology, and Hygiene imeni  
 Mechnikov, the Institute of Virology imeni Ivanovskiy, and the Central Control  
 Institute [of Vaccines and Sera] imeni Tarasevich.

The program of the meeting consisted of discussions on questions of the  
 reorganization of the Institutes of Epidemiology and Microbiology into Scien-  
 tific Research Institutes of Vaccines and Sera in conformity with a provision  
 of the Council of Ministers USSR made in 1952.

At the first session on 27 July, the assembly heard a report by the chief  
 of GSPEU, A.N. Meshalova. She described the present status of the Institutes  
 of Vaccines and Sera and pointed out ways of furthering the development of  
 their scientific and production activities. She said that the reorganization  
 was not complete -- that there still was a need for amplifying and confirming  
 the provision of the Council of Ministers and for making fit for the tasks  
 that lie ahead the structure, planning, and staff schedules of the Institutes  
 of Vaccines and Sera.

Meshalova's report initiated a lively debate. The discussions on the  
 subjects she introduced began on the first day and continued on the next.

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Participating in these discussions were the directors of the Institute imeni Gamaleya and of the Kazan', Molotov, Moscow, Odessa, Stavropol', Tashkent, Khabarovsk, and Khar'kov institutes; the scientific heads of the Gor'kiy, Molotov, Odessa, and Tbilisi institutes; the deputy production director of the Institute imeni Gamaleya; the director of the Central Control Institute [of Vaccines and Sera imeni Tarasevich]; the chief of GSPEU; and others.

During the discussions following Meshalova's report the Minister of Public Health, USSR, A.F. Tret'yakov, rose to outline the tasks confronting the Scientific Research Institutes of Vaccines and Sera. He stressed that the institutes must at all times carry on scientific research in the field of epidemiology, microbiology, and immunology, i.e., a type of research which forms the basis for the fight against infectious diseases, and without which it is impossible to further the development of the technology necessary for the production of microbial preparations. He also pointed out that in the production of vaccines and sera it is necessary to apply the latest techniques and introduce concrete measures which will make possible a speedy change-over to higher technical levels of production.

The minister also dwelt on the question of personnel for the institutes and the need for higher qualifications for this personnel, better administration of the institutes, reinforcement of the institutes as far as materiel and finances are concerned, etc.

On 30 July there were detailed discussions on the projected status of the Scientific Research Institutes of Vaccines and Sera. A majority of the participants were present at this meeting and the draft of a provision was accepted. After its ratification, this provision will form the basis of scientific and production activities of the Institutes of Vaccines and Sera of the Ministry of Public Health USSR.

An excursion through the Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology imeni Gamaleya, Academy of Medical Sciences, was arranged for the delegates, who were given the opportunity to observe the organization of this institute's production. They also familiarized themselves with new achievements in the technology of the production of microbial preparations.

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